

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Previously presented) A method of preparing a composition, said composition comprising an isolated heterologous gene product and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) inserting a gene coding for the heterologous gene product into an expression vector;
- (b) transforming said expression vector into a commensal *Neisseria*;
- (c) expressing said heterologous gene product in said commensal *Neisseria*;
- (d) isolating said heterologous gene product from the *Neisseria* of (c); and
- (e) combining the heterologous gene product of (d) with the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein said heterologous gene product is selected from (1) a product of a gene of a non-*Neisserial* organism and (2) a product of a gene of a pathogenic *Neisseria*.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said commensal *Neisseria* is selected from the group consisting of *N. cinerea*, *N. lactamica*, *N. elongata*, *N. flava*, *N. flavescens*, *N. polysaccharea*, *N. sicca*, *N. mucosa*, *N. perflava* and *N. subflava*.

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the heterologous gene product is the product of a gene of a pathogenic *Neisseria*.

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the heterologous gene product is (a) transferrin binding protein; (b) a Cu,Zn-SOD; (c) an NspA; (d) a porin; (e) an outer membrane protein; or a fragment of any of (a) - (e).

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said isolating comprises:

- (i) suspending said commensal *Neisseria* cells in the presence of detergent;
- (ii) incubating the suspension;
- (iii) extracting a protein fraction from the cells; and
- (iv) isolating the heterologous gene product from the protein fraction.

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the protein fraction is of molecular weight 50 kDa or lower when measured by SDS-PAGE.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the protein fraction is of molecular weight from 40 kDa to 90 kDa when measured by SDS-PAGE.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the protein fraction is of molecular weight at least 80 kDa when measured by SDS-PAGE.

9 - 21. (Canceled).

22. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein step (d) comprises (i) isolating ~~an outer membrane vesicle and wherein the outer membrane vesicle comprises~~ vesicles from the *Neisseria* of step (c), and (ii) isolating said heterologous gene product from said outer membrane vesicles; and wherein said heterologous gene product comprises an outer membrane protein or is directed to the outer membrane of said *Neisseria* by a signal sequence.

23. (Previously presented) A composition obtained by the method of claim 22.

24 - 25. (Canceled).